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second time read. The line, bisecting the angle given by these two readings, is the magnetic meridian, as indicated by the needle of the instrument. To show the accuracy of which this method is susceptible, he mentioned that, on the occasion referred to, the angle of 90° was measured by the needle, on the first trial to within three minutes and thirty seconds, on the second to within two minutes; and that in no case afterwards did the error amount to one minute, and frequently it was less than thirty seconds. He expressed the opinion that any one accustomed to the use of instruments may obtain equally satisfactory results. In conclusion he deemed it proper to state that the theodolite used was made by Mr. Edward Draper, Mathematical Instrument Maker, of Philadelphia.

Dr. Hays announced the decease of Professor de Candolle, of Geneva, a member of the Society.

Mr. Kane informed the Society that the Secretaries had appointed Dr. Bache, Reporter, and Dr. Dunglison, Corresponding Secretary for the present year.

Mr. Lea, Chairman of the Publication Committee, laid upon the table the First Part of Volume VIII. of the Society's Transactions; and Mr. Kane, late Reporter, the closing Number for 1841 of the Proceedings.

Dr. Patterson, on behalf of the Committee on the Museum property, requested authority to memorialize the Legislature for a grant of the necessary powers, to enable the Society to make disposition of the Hall now occupied by it; which request, on motion, was granted.

On motion of Prof. A. D. Bache, the Curators were requested to receive the standards of measure, left by Mr. Vaughan to the Society, and to have them placed in suitable cases and deposited in the Cabinet.

Special Meeting, January 15.

Present, fourteen members.

Mr. DU PONCEAU, President, in the Chair.

The President announced the death of Joseph Hopkinson, one of the Vice-Presidents, which occurred this day, in the

72d year of his age, and referred in impressive terms to the virtues and services by which his life has been illustrated; and thereupon, on motion of Dr. Patterson, the following minute and resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

The American Philosophical Society, after the lapse of a brief fortnight, finds itself again called upon to mourn over the loss of a valued officer and associate. The Honourable Joseph Hopkinson bore a name distinguished in the Society from the earliest period of its existence. His grandfather, Thomas Hopkinson, was selected, nearly a century ago, as the first President of one of the branches of which our Institution is composed; and his father, Francis Hopkinson, was afterwards one of its most zealous and influential members, and contributed ingenious papers to its Transactions. From these ancestors, our lamented Vice-President inherited an attachment to our Institution, which, during his long connection with it, he lost no opportunity of exhibiting, and for which we shall ever hold him in grateful remembrance. Possessed of talents of a high order, of great industry, and a conscientious sense of duty, he was enabled to act an important and distinguished part in life; and long will it be before his place can be filled in the community of which he was an ornament. After reaching the limit of life, with a mind unimpaired and an activity almost youthful, he passed tranquilly to its end, after a short illness unattended by the sense of pain. He lived as his friends wished that he should live, and he died as he himself always wished to die. Entertaining a high value for the character and services of its deceased associate, and sincere regret for his loss, the Society resolves,—

1. That the members will attend the funeral as mourners.
2. That a member be appointed to prepare a notice of the life and character of Judge Hopkinson.
3. That the members tender their sympathy and condolence to the family of the deceased, and that the Secretaries be instructed to communicate to them a copy of these proceedings.

Dr. Chapman was appointed under the second resolution, to prepare an obituary notice of Judge Hopkinson.